

For the Fair Sex.

ADAPTED FOR FAMILIES AND BOARDING SCHOOLS.

On Monday, July 2, 1798, will be published,

In a convenient size for the pocket, fancifully done up in coloured paper, and embellished with, 1st, a Portrait of Mrs. Hannah More, beautifully engraved by an eminent artist; 2d, a superb Coloured Plate of the present Fashionable Dresses for the Ladies.

NUMBER I. (Price 1s.)

OF THE

LADIES' MONTHLY MUSEUM;

OR,

POLITE REPOSITORY

OF

AMUSEMENT AND INSTRUCTION:

Being an assemblage of whatever can tend to please the Fancy, interest the Mind, or exalt the character of

THE BRITISH FAIR.

BY A SOCIETY OF LADIES.

We may read, and read,
And read again, and still find something new,
Something to please, and something to instruct.

HURDIS.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE PROPRIETORS,

AND SOLD BY MESSRS. VERNOR AND HOOD, IN THE POULTRY; AND BY EVERY BOOKSELLER IN THE THREE KINGDOMS.

Communications addressed to the Editors, Post paid, will be thankfully received.

PROSPECTUS.

IT has long been matter of surprise, that while several successful attempts have been made to vary or extend the periodical publications, designed for the amusement or instruction of Gentlemen, the Ladies should have hitherto had no alternative of selection; and that they should all have been confined to the same monthly mental repast, however discordant their tastes and delicate their appetites. Of some abortive schemes to new garnish the entertainment, and to furnish fresh condiments, it is unnecessary to speak: they were mere temporary expedients to catch the attention; and possessed in their very essence the seeds of speedy dissolution. — Like fantastic ornaments, they were calculated only for the fashion of a season, and were supplanted by other plans of a similar tendency and duration.

Whatever may be the fate of the present work, which is offered to the British Fair, its projectors and conductors have well weighed the importance of the office they have undertaken, and feel a full impression of the respect which is due to their lovely patronesses. They are, however, encouraged to hope, that a publication, expressly under the direction of females, will not for this reason be the less acceptable to their own sex; and as they mean to exclude whatever a lady ought not to write, their subscribers may be sure of finding nothing but what a lady may safely and innocently read. To give ardour to virtue, to warn from the most distant ap-

proach

proach of vice, to paint the social, moral, and religious duties in colours calculated to allure ; to form the amiable temper and correct the manners of the blooming maid ; to add energy to the resolution of the good wife and the tender mother, are objects inseparable from the design of this publication, and which can never be overlooked, without forfeiting a claim to that favour which they now respectfully solicit.

Already possessed of a large quantity of original Composition, and promised the most respectable assistance, the Editors have no cause to apprehend that they shall lose by a comparison with any established work of this nature, even in a literary point of view ; but as they are rather ambitious to gain reputation by their future conduct than to excite notice by their previous professions, they waive all attempts at fashionable compliment and courtly insinuation ; satisfied briefly to state the peculiar advantages of their plan, and to leave the issue of success to its faithful execution.

The materials which will be presented in agreeable variety to the eye of their lovely readers, will consist of original Novels, Tales, and Romances, of the purest tendency, adorned with all the embellishments of fancy. It is intended, however, that every article in continuation shall be finished within the same volume, that the attention may neither be distracted by distant combinations, nor the pocket taxed by the necessity of pursuing unending narratives.

Next to those pieces in which fancy will have the principal share, particular regard will be paid to Essays and Letters, calculated to form the female mind to virtue and propriety in every relative situation. Biographical memoirs of distinguished Ladies, Characters, Poetry original and selected of every species, Charades and Enigmas will also be leading features in the work.

Another part of the plan, which is as novel as it is requisite, is to give an impartial review of such new publications as are peculiarly adapted for ladies and children of both sexes. Whatever cannot be recommended in general, will be quite disregarded. It is rather with a view of pointing out excellencies, and to assist in directing the choice of young persons and mothers to what is worthy of their selection than to establish a tribunal of criticism, that this idea was started, and will be steadily pursued.

French having now become an essential branch of female education, as an exercise for juvenile talents, a short tale, anecdote, or piece of poetry, will appear monthly in that language, of which the best translation given, will be inserted in the succeeding number.

Nor in a publication exclusively devoted to the use of the Ladies of every rank and every age, must an attention to reigning fashions be omitted. If virtue in a lovely form is universally allowed to be most fascinating,—Beauty and Virtue, attired by the Graces, must be quite irresistible. It is not the fortune of every one to move in a sphere or to occupy a station where the prevalent taste can be caught by the eye and copied in the dress ; and therefore not only a verbal description, but also a COLOURED plate of fashionable modes will be given in each number. Another plate will in general represent some interesting scene from a real or fancied subject, or be a striking portrait of some female character. Such are the intended embellishments from the art of design ; and where the most liberal regard will be paid both to the quantity and the quality of the letter-press, more cannot reasonably be expected, nor can they be really wanted. It may, however, be proper to add, that not only fashionable dresses, but also fashionable amusements, will be faithfully recorded ; and of consequence new plays and other public attractions will be regularly noticed. To afford room for more valuable and more interesting matter, politics will be entirely discarded,—the occurrences of the day will be left to their proper vehicles—the newspapers ; and of the usual lists, none will be included, except those of marriages.

These are the outlines of the plan. The size of the publication will be equally remote from cumbrous inelegance and petty minuteness. It is intended to combine a tasteful exterior with intrinsic worth ; and will every six months form a volume, which it is presumed will be found deserving a place in the chamber, the parlour, or the library.